





ONDCP

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

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Drug Data Summary

As part of ongoing research, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse has prepared this fact sheet to summarize current drug-related law enforcement, court, and corrections statistics as well as drug use, drug production, and drug control spending information.

Drug Use

Drug use in the general population

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) 1997 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 77 million (35.6%) of Americans aged 12 and older reported some use of an illicit drug at least once during their lifetime, 11.2% reported use during the past year, and 6.4% reported use in the month before the survey was conducted.

1997 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: Past illicit drug use

Respondent age	Ever used	Past year	Past month
12-17	23.7%	18.8%	11.4%
18-25	45.4	25.3	14.7
26-34	50.8	14.3	7.4
35 and over	31.5	6.1	3.6

For those age 12 and over, an estimated 1.5 million were current cocaine users and 11.1 million reported using marijuana at least once within the past month.

For those age 12 and over, 2.5% reported using methamphetamine and 5.7% reported using inhalants at least once within their lifetime.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) 1998 Monitoring the Future Study, 54.1% of high school seniors reported use of an illicit drug at least once in their lives, 41.4% reported use of an illicit drug within the past year, and 25.6% reported use of a drug within the past month.

1998 Monitoring the Future Study: Drug use among high school seniors

Drug	Ever used	Past year	Past month
Marijuana	49.1%	37.5%	22.8%
Cocaine	9.3	5.7	2.4
Crack	4.4	2.5	1.0
Stimulants	16.4	10.1	4.6
LSD	12.6	7.6	3.2
PCP	3.9	2.1	1.0
Heroin	2.0	1.0	0.5

Emergency department and medical examiner statistics

In 1996, the SAMHSA Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) reported 514,347 drug-related episodes in hospital emergency departments nationwide, which is an increase from the 513,633 reported in 1995. A total of 9,484 drug abuse deaths were reported in 1996 by 146 medical examiners in 41 metropolitan areas. Drug abuse deaths usually involve drug overdoses, but they also include deaths in which drug usage was a contributory factor. The National Vital Statistics Report from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) measures drug-induced mortalities using death certificates in the United States. In 1996 there were 14,843 deaths attributed to drugs, which is up from 14,218 in 1995.

Drug use among arrestees and offenders

The National Institute of Justice's (NIJ's) Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) program tests urine samples voluntarily collected from selected adult male arrestees in 23 cities, adult female arrestees in 21 cities, and juvenile male detainees in 12 cities. In 1997, the ADAM program found that the percentage of adult male arrestees testing positive for an illicit drug at the time of arrest ranged from 51.4% in San Jose to 80.3% in Chicago. Adult female arrestees testing positive ranged from 37.6% in San Antonio to 80.5% in Manhattan. Juvenile male detainees testing positive ranged from 41.6% in Indianapolis to 65.6% in Washington, D.C.

The 1997 Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) Survey of State and Federal Prison Inmates reported that 51% of prison inmates committed their offense under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

1997 State and Federal prison inmate drug use at time of offense

Current offense	Under the influence of					
	Drugs		Alcohol		Both	
	Fed.	State	Fed.	State	Fed.	State
All offenses	22.4	32.6	20.4	37.2	34.0	52.5
Violent offenses	24.5	29.0	24.5	41.7	39.8	51.9
Property offenses	10.8	36.6	15.6	34.5	22.6	53.2
Drug offenses	25.0	41.9	19.8	27.4	34.6	52.4
Public-order offenses	15.6	23.1	20.6	43.2	30.2	56.2

The 1996 BJS Survey of Inmates in Local Jails reported that 82.4% of inmates had used a drug at some point in their lives. Approximately 60% of the inmates reported being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of the offense resulting in their incarceration. Overall, 15.8% of convicted jail inmates said they committed their offense for money to buy drugs.

1996 local jail drug use at the time of offense

Most serious offense	Under the influence of			To get money for drugs
	Drugs	Alcohol	Both	
All offenses	19.6%	24.5%	16.1%	15.8%
Violent offenses	13.5	27.4	14.3	8.8
Property offenses	21.0	17.9	16.3	25.6
Drug offenses	35.7	6.0	23.5	23.5
Public-order offenses	8.6	46.2	10.6	4.2

The 1987 BJS Survey of Youth in Custody in long-term, State-operated juvenile institutions reported on juveniles under 18 who indicated whether they were under the influence of drugs or alcohol or both at the time of their offense.

1987 youth in custody drug use at the time of offense

Most serious offense	Drugs	Alcohol	Both
All offenses	15.7%	8.5%	23.4%
Violent offenses	12.1	8.2	24.2
Property offenses	16.8	9.7	23.1
Drug offenses	34.4	0.0	24.9
Public-order offenses	15.9	7.2	20.6
Juvenile status offenses	15.3	16.5	17.6

Law Enforcement

Drug enforcement operations

The 1993 BJS Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) survey of State and local law enforcement agencies found that 80% of the Nation's local

police and sheriffs' departments and 55% of State police departments had primary responsibility for drug law enforcement in their jurisdictions.

Special drug unit operation and multiagency task force participation of agencies with primary drug enforcement responsibility

Type of agency	Operation of special drug unit	Participation in multiagency task force
State police departments	96%	96%
All local agencies	30	55
Police departments	26	50
Sheriffs' departments	49	73

Among those agencies with primary drug enforcement responsibilities, many operate special drug enforcement units or participate in multiagency drug enforcement task forces.

Estimated arrests for drug offenses

Year	Total arrests	Sale/ manufacturing	Possession	Percent of all arrests
1988	1,155,200	316,525	838,675	8.4%
1989	1,361,700	441,191	920,509	9.5
1990	1,089,500	344,282	745,218	7.7
1991	1,010,000	337,340	672,660	7.1
1992	1,066,400	338,049	728,351	7.6
1993	1,126,300	334,511	791,789	8.0
1994	1,351,400	360,824	990,576	9.2
1995	1,476,100	367,549	1,108,551	9.8
1996	1,506,200	375,044	1,131,156	9.9
1997	1,583,600	324,638	1,258,962	10.4

Arrests

In 1997, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) reported an estimated 1,583,600 State and local arrests for drug law violations in the United States. In 1987, drug arrests were 7.4% of the total of all arrests reported to the FBI; by 1997, drug arrests had risen to 10.4% of all arrests.

Drug seizures

Many Federal agencies are involved in removal of illicit drugs from the market. The Federal-wide Drug Seizure System (FDSS) reflects the combined drug seizure efforts of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), FBI, U.S. Customs Service, and U.S. Border Patrol within the jurisdiction of the United States, as well as maritime seizures by the U.S. Coast Guard. FDSS eliminates duplicate reporting of a seizure involving more than one Federal agency.

Seizures in pounds

Drug	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998*
Heroin	2,568	3,381	3,116	3,485
Cocaine	234,097	254,294	253,531	264,630
Marijuana	1,308,169	1,429,493	1,486,952	1,762,834
Hashish	32,020	33,018	53,051	597

*Preliminary data subject to change.

Asset seizures

In fiscal year 1997, the DEA made 15,860 domestic seizures of nondrug property, valued at approximately \$552 million.

Type of asset	Number of seizures	Value
Total	15,860	\$511,680,150
Currency	8,123	284,680,029
Other financial instruments	507	73,602,092
Real property	748	108,833,498
Vehicles	3,695	47,379,874
Vessels	111	5,884,754
Aircraft	24	8,945,000
Other conveyance	172	1,734,731
Other	2,480	20,620,172

Law enforcement officers killed

Of 65 Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers killed in 1997, the FBI reported that 1 died during drug-related investigations or activities.

Courts and Corrections

Federal offenders

According to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, of the 54,540 defendants convicted in Federal courts between July 1996 and June 1997, 19,360 (36%) defendants were convicted of Federal drug offenses. Of these defendants:

- 17,816 pleaded guilty
- 12 pleaded no contest
- 1,481 were convicted in a jury trial
- 51 were convicted in a bench trial.

Of the 19,360 defendants convicted for drug offenses in the Federal courts:

- 17,718 were sentenced to imprisonment (including 228 defendants receiving sentences of life)
- the average sentence length was 80 months
- 1,556 were sentenced to an average 35.5 months' probation
- 50 were fined; 36 received other sentences, including probation of 4 days or less, no sentence, suspended sentences, and supervisory sentences.

According to the BJS Federal Justice Statistics Program, the average incarceration sentence length imposed on all Federal offenders increased from 44 months in 1980 to 65 months in 1995, while the average sentence imposed on drug offenders increased from 47 months to 85 months during that time.

In 1995, Federal offenders who were released from prison for the first time on a sentence imposed in a U.S. district court had served an average of 27 months, which amounted to 90% of the court-imposed sentence. Prisoners sentenced for drug offenses served an average time of 38 months and served 87% of the court-imposed sentence.

U.S. district court average sentence length imposed

Most serious conviction offense	Months			
	1980	1985	1990	1995*
All offenses	44.3	50.7	57.2	64.5
Violent offenses	125.4	131.2	89.2	92.3
Property offenses	29.4	31.9	22.0	26.4
Drug offenses	47.1	57.5	80.9	85.4
Public-order offenses	24.5	30.6	28.3	51.1

*1995 data are calculated on the fiscal year and exclude misdemeanor offenses. 1980, 1985, 1990 data represent calendar years.

Offenders in State courts

According to the BJS National Judicial Reporting Program (NJRP), 165,400 persons were convicted of drug trafficking in 1994. That number is more than twice the number convicted in 1986, the year the survey was first conducted. The NJRP also reported 108,800 convictions for drug possession in 1994. That number is slightly less than the number convicted in 1992 (109,400), the first year possession statistics were reported. Nine out of 10 convictions in 1994 for drug offenses resulted from a guilty plea.

Average sentence lengths for felony drug offense sentences imposed by State courts, 1994

Most serious conviction offense	Maximum sentence length for felons sentenced to			
	Incarceration			
	Total	Prison	Jail	Probation
All drug offenses	40 mos.	61 mos.	6 mos.	38 mos.
Possession	28	50	4	37
Trafficking	48	66	7	40

Seven out of 10 persons convicted of drug offenses in 1994 were sentenced to incarceration: 25% to jail and 45% to prison. Of felons sent to State prison for drug offenses, the average sentence length was 61 months, of which the estimated time to be served was 22 months.

Corrections

Drug offenders have accounted for an increasing percentage of the population in State and Federal correctional facilities. Drug offenders constituted an estimated 23% of the State prison population in 1996, up from 6% of the population in 1980, 9% in 1985, and 22% in 1990. In Federal correctional facilities, drug offenders accounted for 60% of the population on October 31, 1997, up from 25% in 1980, 34.3% in 1985, 52% in 1990, but remained stable from 1995 to 1997. In 1997 the median number of months offenders served for drug offenses was 82 months.

Offenders on probation

The 1995 BJS Survey of Adults on Probation, the first nationally representative survey to collect information on the individual characteristics of adult probationers, found that

21.4% or approximately 560,800 of the adults on probation in 1995 were sentenced for a drug offense. Drug trafficking was the single most frequent offense among felons on probation (15.4%) followed by drug possession (13.1%). Drug or alcohol treatment was a sentence condition for 41% of adults on probation, and 32.5% had mandatory drug testing.

Offense	Percent of adults on probation*		
	Total	Felony	Misdemeanor
Violent	17.3%	19.5%	13.5%
Property	28.9	36.6	18.2
Drug	21.4	30.7	7.6
Public order	31.1	12.1	59.6
Drug offense			
Possession	9.8%	13.1%	4.6%
Trafficking	9.7	15.4	1.6
Other/unspecified	1.9	2.3	1.4
Special condition			
Drug testing	32.5%	43.0%	17.1%
Drug/alcohol treatment	41.0	37.5	45.7
Other	26.5	19.5	37.2

* Based on a total of 2,620,560 adult probationers in 1995. Of the 2,620,560, 1,491,670 were felony sentences and 991,161 were misdemeanors.

The same survey found that 47% of offenders on probation were under the influence of alcohol and drugs at the time of the offense.

1995 Probationer drug use at the time of offense			
	Drugs	Alcohol	Both
Total	13.5%	39.9%	46.8%
Violent	10.7	40.7	43.5
Property	9.8	18.5	23.0
Drug	31.7	16.3	38.4
Public-order	6.4	75.1	77.0

State and Federal correctional authorities reported data to the BJS 1990 Census of State and Federal Adult Correctional Facilities on drug-testing practices in their facilities. About 87% of correctional facilities tested some inmates for illegal drug use between July 1, 1989, and June 30, 1990.

Criteria used for drug testing inmates			
Facility conducts urine tests on inmates	All facilities	Federal confinement	State confinement
Total*	86.7%	100.0%	82.5%
Systematically on everyone at least once	20.0	31.3	12.3
Randomly on samples	62.7	96.3	56.5
On indication of possible drug use	75.8	93.8	74.1
Other criteria	17.3	23.8	18.4

*Detail adds to more than totals because some facilities tested on more than one basis.

Drug Availability

Price and purity

Based on field investigations and laboratory analysis of DEA drug buys and seizures, the DEA's System to Retrieve Information from Drug Evidence (STRIDE) provides national ranges for price and purity estimates for cocaine, heroin, and marijuana. Using STRIDE data, the national price per pure gram and purity trends are presented for the years 1981, 1988, 1996, 1997, and second quarter 1998.

Production

According to the U.S. Department of State's 1998 *International Narcotics Control Strategy Report*, Burma was the world's largest producer of opium, Peru led

Drug type Purchase Amount	1981 Price/Purity* (per pure gram)	1988 Price/Purity (per pure gram)	1996 Price/Purity (per pure gram)	1997 Price/Purity (per pure gram)	1998 ¹ Price/Purity (per pure gram)
Cocaine					
Purchases of 1 gram or less ²	\$378.70 /40.02%	\$218.33/75.99%	\$159.05/72.5%	\$178.97/64.72%	\$169.25/71.23%
Purchases of 10–100 grams ³	191.35/59.59	78.84/83.53	49.45/68.44	45.58/67.05	44.30/65.92
Heroin					
Purchases of .1 gram or less ²	3,114.80 /4.69	2,874.19/19.22	2,175.88/23.95	2,114.97/25.24	1,798.80/24.29
Purchases of 1–10 grams ³	1,194.05/19.1	947.32/39.48	373.30/45.21	327.88/45.38	317.97/51.33
Methamphetamine					
Purchases of 10 grams or less ²	258.24/40.84	229.18/54.95	171.65/37.04	168.47/44.25	141.41/33.17
Purchases of 10–100 grams ³	104.76/66.14	79.95/63.37	64.04/50.42	58.38/55.04	57.43/38.27
Marijuana**					
Purchases of 10 grams or less ²	6.41	12.50	10.42	10.00	10.41
Purchases of 100–999 grams ³	2.75	3.41	2.95	2.63	2.59

¹ Preliminary data and subject to change. ² Quantities purchased at the "retail" level. ³ Quantities purchased at the "dealer" level.
* Dollar figures reflect price per pure gram. One pure gram is approximately 1.5 bulk grams. ** Purity is unknown for marijuana.

worldwide cultivation of coca leaf, and Colombia led in marijuana cultivation.

Worldwide potential net drug production 1994–1998 (in metric tons)

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Opium					
Total	3,409	4,165	4,285	4,137	3,462
Afghanistan	950	1,250	1,230	1,265	1,350
India	82	77	47	30	—
Pakistan	160	155	75	85	65
Total SW Asia	1,192	1,482	1,352	1,380	1,415
Burma	2,030	2,340	2,560	2,365	1,750
China	25	19	—	—	—
Laos	85	180	200	210	140
Thailand	17	25	30	25	16
Total SE Asia	2,157	2,564	2,790	2,600	1,906
Other countries	60	119	143	157	141
Coca leaf					
Total	290,900	309,400	303,600	263,900	229,900
Bolivia	89,800	85,000	75,100	70,100	52,900
Colombia	35,800	40,800	53,800	63,600	81,400
Peru	165,300	183,600	174,700	130,200	95,600
Ecuador	—	—	—	—	—
Marijuana					
Total	13,386	11,489	11,389	10,347	9,800
Mexico	5,540	3,650	3,400	2,500	2,300
Colombia	4,138	4,133	4,133	4,133	4,000
Other countries	3,708	3,706	3,856	3,714	3,500

Drug Control Budget

According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Federal spending on drug control programs has increased from \$1.5 billion in fiscal year 1981 to \$16.0 billion in fiscal year 1998.

ONDCP also reported that State and local governments spent \$15.9 billion on drug control activities during fiscal year 1991, a 13% increase over the \$14.1 billion spent during fiscal year 1990.

State and local spending for drug control, fiscal years 1990 and 1991 (in millions)

	FY 1990	FY 1991
Total drug control	\$14,075	\$15,907
Justice	11,525	12,619
Police protection	4,035	4,223
Judicial and legal services	1,346	1,449
Corrections	6,045	6,827
Others	100	120
Health and hospitals	2,184	2,784
Education	366	503

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Federal drug control spending by function (in millions)

	FY 1981 actual	FY 1989 actual	FY 1992 actual	FY 1995 actual	FY 1996 actual	FY 1997 actual	FY 1998 actual	FY 1999 enacted	FY 2000 requested
Total	1,531.8	6,663.7	11,910.1	13,251.2	13,454.0	15,033.2	15,977.4	17,886.2	17,777.2
Drug treatment	513.8	1,148.2	2,204.7	2,692.0	2,553.8	2,756.2	2,885.6	3,013.5	3,193.3
Drug prevention	86.4	725.4	1,538.7	1,559.1	1,400.7	1,643.3	1,926.4	2,153.8	2,177.0
Criminal justice system	415.6	2,761.4	4,943.0	6,756.9	7,164.9	7,684.4	8,187.2	8,455.1	8,749.0
International	66.8	304.0	660.4	295.8	289.8	416.7	500.0	559.2	637.2
Interdiction	349.7	1,440.7	1,960.2	1,280.1	1,321.0	1,723.3	1,615.3	1,803.9	1,937.3
Research	76.5	230.6	504.5	542.2	609.3	655.2	679.5	771.8	798.5
Intelligence	23.1	53.4	98.6	125.0	114.5	154.2	183.3	254.9	284.8

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